

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
  
receiving, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role;  
  
receiving, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid; ~~and~~  
  
~~issuing~~ generating a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication, ~~wherein~~  
  
~~the delegation credential includes encoded delegation information;~~  
  
receiving a request from the delegate for access to a service;  
  
providing the delegation credential in response to the request; and  
  
sending the delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected  
  
delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate.
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential allows the delegate to access the service ~~assume the role~~.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
  
issuing a confirmation to the delegator which indicates that the delegation credential was generated ~~issued~~.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegator can delegate multiple functions, the role comprising one of the multiple functions.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the delegation credential is issued to<sub>1</sub> and stored by<sub>1</sub> at least one of the delegate and a credential service provider.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the credential service provider receives a ~~digital~~ the delegation credential from the delegate and an access requirement for access to the service from a relying party and determines if the ~~digital~~ delegation credential is valid for the access requirement.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the credential service provider determines if there is a pre-existing delegation credential that corresponds to the access requirement and provides the delegation credential that corresponds to the access requirement to the delegate.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein multiple delegation credentials correspond to the access requirement and the credential service provider provides the multiple delegation credentials to the delegate.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the delegate selects the delegation credential from among ~~which of~~ the multiple delegation credentials to use for the access requirement and the credential service provider provides ~~a selected~~ the delegation credential to the relying party.

11. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving a request from a delegate for access to a service;  
obtaining delegation credentials for the delegate;  
determining which of the delegation credentials correspond to an access ~~requirements~~  
requirement for the service; ~~and~~  
providing, to the delegate, ~~the~~ delegation credentials that correspond to the access  
requirement ~~requirements;~~ and  
sending a selected delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected  
delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising:  
receiving, from the delegate, a an indication corresponding to the selected ~~one of the~~  
delegation credential ~~credentials that correspond to the access requirements~~; and  
using the selected ~~one of the~~ delegation credential ~~credentials~~ to access the service if the  
selected delegation credential comprises a permissible delegation credential for the delegate.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein sending is performed further  
~~comprising: verifying validity of the selected one of the delegation credentials~~ prior to using the  
selected ~~one of the~~ delegation credential ~~credentials~~ to access the service.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
receiving ~~a statement indicating~~ an indication that the selected delegation credential ~~one of~~  
~~the digital credentials~~ is valid prior to using the selected ~~one of the~~ delegation credential  
~~credentials~~ to access the service.

16. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:  
receiving, from a delegate, a value corresponding to a confirmation code and an identifier,  
the confirmation code and the identifier corresponding to a delegator, the confirmation code being  
generated by a Web site visited by the delegate;  
identifying the delegator using at least one of the identifier and the confirmation code;  
assigning, to the delegate, a delegation credential that corresponds to the delegator; and

sending a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, further comprising:

storing the delegation credential in a database maintained by a delegation service provider.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein identifying comprises checking a hash of the confirmation code to identify the delegator.

20. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving, from a delegate, a delegation request for a role of the delegator;

receiving a value corresponding to a confirmation code from the delegate, the confirmation code being generated by a Web site visited by the delegate;

receiving, from the delegator, a request for outstanding delegation requests;

requesting approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate; and

receiving the confirmation code from the delegator in response to requesting approval.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

confirming the approval of the outstanding delegation request using the confirmation code.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving a digital credential from the delegator; and

confirming that the received digital credential matches a digital credential of the delegator.

23. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:

receive, from a delegator, a designation of a role and a delegate to assume the role;

receive, from a credential service provider, an indication that the designation is valid; ~~and~~

~~issue~~ generate a delegation credential in response to receiving the indication, ~~wherein the delegation credential includes encoded delegation information;~~

receive a request from the delegate for access to a service;

provide the delegation credential in response to the request; and

send the delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegation credential allows the delegate to access the service ~~assume the role~~.

26. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

issue a confirmation to the delegator which indicates that the delegation credential was generated ~~issued~~.

27. (Original) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegator can delegate multiple functions, the role comprising one of the multiple functions.

28. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 23, wherein the delegation credential is issued to<sub>1</sub> and stored by<sub>1</sub> at least one of the delegate and a credential service provider.

29. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:

receive a request from a delegate for access to a service;

obtain delegation credentials for the delegate;

determine which of the delegation credentials correspond to an access ~~requirements~~ requirement for the service; ~~and~~

provide, to the delegate, ~~the~~ delegation credentials that correspond to the access ~~requirements~~ requirement; and

send a selected delegation credential to a verification service that compares the selected delegation credential to permissible delegation credentials for the delegate.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 29, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive, from the delegate, ~~a selected one of the~~ an indication corresponding to the selected delegation credential ~~credentials that correspond to the access requirements;~~ and

use the selected ~~one of the~~ delegation ~~credentials~~ credential to access the service if the selected delegation credential comprises a permissible delegation credential for the delegate.

32. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 31, wherein sending is performed ~~further comprising instructions that cause the machine to: verify validity of the selected one of the delegation credentials~~ prior to using the selected ~~one of the~~ delegation credential ~~credentials~~ to access the service.

33. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 31, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

receive ~~a statement indicating~~ an indication that the selected delegation credential ~~one of the digital credentials~~ is valid prior to using the selected ~~one of the~~ delegation ~~credentials~~ credential to access the service.

34. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:



receive, from a delegate, a value corresponding to a confirmation code and an identifier, the confirmation code and the identifier corresponding to a delegator, the confirmation code being generated by a Web site visited by the delegate;

identify the delegator using at least one of the identifier and the confirmation code;

assign, to the delegate, a delegation credential that corresponds to the delegator; and

send a message to the delegator indicating that the delegation credential has been assigned

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Original) The article of claim 34, further comprising instructions that cause the machine to:

store the delegation credential in a database maintained by a delegation service provider.

37. (Original) The article of claim 34, wherein identifying comprises checking a hash of the confirmation code to identify the delegator.

38. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium that stores executable instructions that cause a machine to:

receive, from a delegate, a delegation request for a role of the delegator;

receive a value corresponding to a confirmation code from the delegate, the confirmation code being generated by a Web site visited by the delegate;

receive, from the delegator, a request for outstanding delegation requests;

request approval from the delegator of an outstanding delegation request from the delegate;  
and

receive the confirmation code from the delegator in response to requesting approval.

39. (Original) The article of claim 38, further comprising instructions that cause the  
machine to:

confirm the approval of the outstanding delegation request using the confirmation code.

40. (Original) The article of claim 39, further comprising instructions that cause the  
machine to:

receive a digital credential from the delegator; and

confirm that the received digital credential matches a digital credential of the delegator.